

MONTANA STATE BOBCATS

Bozeman, Montana
Enrollment: 12,369

Rob Ash (Career 145-77-2)
4th Year at Montana State
Ash's record at Montana St (20-14)



POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2010

QUARTERBACKS - In '08 MSU had to replace QB Jack Rolovich, who threw for 2,237 (53%, 14-11) in '07, along with his backup. They brought in Oregon transfer QB Cody Kempt (PS#78) and JC transfer QB Mark Iddins (PS#179JC). Kempt started the first 9 in '08, throwing for 1,316 (51%, 9-12) and was the #4 rusher, but then was lost (inj). Iddins started vs NAU but was also lost (inj). He played in 7 throwing for 334 (48.5%, 4-3). With both QB's out Mark Desin, who saw time at WR, started the final 2 throwing for 264 (46%, 1-4, 50 rush). All 3 ret LY but Desin went back to WR. Iddins started the first 5 and threw for 1,217 (57.9%) but with a 5-6 ratio. Kempt started the final 6 throwing for 1,108 (57.8%) with a 9-4 ratio. Iddins departs and Kempt will try to hold off rFr Denarius McGhee (PS#246) who looked more comfortable in the spg taking snaps from under center in new OC Brian Wright's offense.

RUNNING BACKS - In '08 MSU ret'd their top 3 rushers including RB Demetrius Crawford (868, 4.9, 1st Tm BSC), who led again with 1,314 (5.2) including ending with 5 straight 100 yd gms. While they had to replace Crawford LY, they did return RB's CJ Palmer (312, 5.0) and Aaron Mason (226, 4.0). Mason led with 618 (4.8, 2nd Tm BSC), while Palmer added 510 (4.4) and Blayde Becksted was #3 with 215 (5.0). Palmer and Becksted return and they add true frosh David Dash (PS#135), JC transfer Orenzo Davis (PS#370JC) and Kerry Sloan.

RECEIVERS - MSU ret 3 of their top 4 rec in '08 led by Deon Toliver (#2, 451, 18.0). Last year they had to replace 5 of their top 7 rec incl Toliver (#2, 318, 17.7), Tyler Lulay (#3) and starting TE Brandon Bostick (#5). They returned DeSean Thomas, who led with 407 (17.0) and TE Joe Schreiber (#6) and added Oreg transfer, Elvis Akpla. Schreiber moved up to #4 but Thomas had just 107 (13.4). They were led by true frosh Everette Gilbert (556, 12.1), JC Julius Lloyd (442, 12.3) and Akpla (380, 14.1). This year they return their top 3 and while they lose Schreiber (11 st) they return TE Kyle Begger (1 st, 123, 7.2).

OFFENSIVE LINE - The OL ret 4 starters in '08 and they helped MSU lead the conf in rushing (175 ypg) for the first time since 1989. Their ypc increased from 3.4 to 4.2 and their sacks allowed fell from 23 to a conf best 17 (5.3%). The OL had to replace 2 starters LY including 1st Tm BSC LT Lou Saucedo. They returned 4 OL, who comb for 40 sts incl 2nd Tm BSC RG Jeff Hansen. Their rush numbers dropped a little to 147 ypg (3.9, #2 BSC) and allowed just 18 sacks (4.8%, tied #1). This year they lose 1st Tm RG Hansen (11 st) but return 5 who comb for 44 sts led by 1st Tm BSC RT Mike Person (11 st).

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '08 the DL ret 2 st's led by 2nd Tm BSC DE Dane Fletcher (#4 tk/r, 16 tfl). They improved their rush D by 55 ypg allowing just 89 ypg (#2 BSC, #6 FCS) and the ypc dropped from 3.7 to 2.6. The D increased their sack total from 29 to 36 (#2). Fletcher (2nd Tm BSC) again led the team in tfl (14.5) despite missing the final 2 gms (inj). Last yr they had to replace 3 DL (comb 22 st) but returned 5 who comb for 26 st incl Fletcher (9 st). They improved to just 82 ypg (2.4, #1, #7 FCS) despite losing DE Brad Smith (7 st '08) after 2 sts. This year they lose 1st Tm BSC Fletcher (#3 tk/r, 17 tfl) but ret 6, who comb for 35 sts led by 1st Tm BSC DT Dan Ogden (#6 tk/r, 5.5 sk) and DE John Laidet (#9 tk/r, 3.5 sk) and Smith.

LINEBACKERS - The LB unit had to replace 2 st's in '08 but ret'd 1st Tm BSC MLB Bobby Daly. (#1 tk/r). He again was the #1 tk/r (82, 2nd Tm BSC) in '08. Last year they had to replace Daly but ret'd 2 st's in WLB Jeff Price (#2 tk/r) and SLB Chase Gazzo (3 tk/r). Gazzo and Price only played in 6 each (7 sts, 72 tk comb) and both depart this year along with WLB Matt Harris (5 st, #7 tk/r). They return 2nd Tm BSC MLB Clay Bignell (9 st, #1 tk/r, 7 tfl) and SLB Jody Owens (9 st, #4 tk/r) and add a JC.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '08 the secondary ret'd 3, who had a comb 25 st in '07 and for a 3rd straight yr they were #3 in pass def (17-17 ratio). Last year they lost CB Arnold Briggs (11 st, #5 tk/r) to an ACL inj in Aug but ret'd 3, who comb for 27 sts in '08 including the #4, #5 and #6 tk/r's. They fell to #5 in pass D allowing a 27-13 ratio. This yr they must replace 2nd Tm BSC CB Kevin Retoriano (#8 tk/r, 10 pd) but return 6, who comb for 33 sts led by FS Michael Rider (#1 tk/r, 4 int) and SS Jordan Craney (#5 tk/r).

SPECIAL TEAMS - In '08 MSU only lost their KR but true frosh K Jason Cunningham won the K job, (13-19, L/52). P Eric Fisher avg 41.8. PR Lulay avg 8.0, while KR Aaron Mason avg 19.9 and KR Demetrius Crawford avg 29.5 (1 TD). Last year they only had to replace Lulay and Crawford. In '09 they avg just 5.6 on PR and 18.3 on KR. Cunningham hit 14-18 FG (L/47). Fisher and Mackey Nolan split time at P with a 32.8 m net. While they ret their top PR, KR & K, they did not have a P on the roster in the spg.

COACHES - HC Rob Ash enters his 4th ssn here after 18 yrs as HC at Drake. His DC Jamie Marshall and run gm coor Dale Ploessl both came with him from Drake. OC Jim Svoboda left after 1 yr and the new OC is Brian Wright, who was the OC at Youngstown St the last 5 yrs.

FORECAST - The Bobcats won the 1984 I-AA Championship going 12-2. MSU has had just 12 winning seasons since then but have now had 8 straight, their longest streak since 1956-64. They have made the playoffs just 3 times since '84, but all have come in the last 8 yrs. Last year they returned just 5 off st's but added a FBS transfer and while they improved in total off from #9 in the BSC to #5 (+26 ypg) they dropped from #5 to #6 in scoring

2010 SCHEDULE	
9/4	Fort Lewis
9/11	at Washington St
9/18	Drake
9/25	Eastern Washington
10/2	at Sacramento St
10/9	Portland St
10/16	at Northern Arizona
10/23	Northern Colorado
10/30	at Idaho St
11/6	Weber St
11/13	
11/20	at Montana

2009 RECORD: (7-4)
RETURNING STARTERS: OFFENSE: 8* DEFENSE: 8 LETTERMEN: Returning: 42 Lost: 13
2009 AVG ATTENDANCE: 13,283 (#16) BIG SKY

(-3.2 ppg). They ret 8 off st's TY and even with the new OC are supposed to do more tweaking than overhauling, so they should improve. They returned 7 def st's LY and 8 of their top 10 tk/r's. They remained #1 in total def and #6 in scoring. They ret 8 st's on def this yr incl 5 of their top 6 tk/r's and should again be solid. The Bobcats should be in the hunt for a playoff spot and the BSC crown especially with some of the top tms being in rebuilding yrs. Like last yr their hopes could come down to the finale vs rival Montana, which return just 10 st's this year.



WR Everette Gilbert

STADIUM: BOBCAT STADIUM (15,000) (#51) PLAYING SURFACE: ARTIFICIAL (FieldTurf)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	8 Yr Total
Straight Up	7-6	7-6	6-5	7-4	8-5	6-5	7-5	7-4	55-40
Home	5-1	4-2	4-2	6-0	4-3	4-2	4-2	4-2	35-14
Away	2-5	3-4	2-3	1-4	4-2	2-3	3-3	3-2	20-26
Conf	5-2	5-2	4-3	5-2	6-2	4-4	5-3	5-3	39-21
Non Conf	2-4	2-4	2-2	2-2	2-3	2-1	2-2	2-1	16-19
Playoffs	0-1	0-1	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	1-3

2009 STATISTICAL LEADERS

	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	AVG	PLAYER	TKL	SKS	TFL	PBU	INT
RUSHING												
Aaron Mason	128	628	10	618	5	4.8	Michael Rider	71	0	5.5	2	4
CJ Palmer	115	529	19	510	5	4.4	Clay Bignell	71	2.5	4.5	3	3
Blayde Becksted	43	22	7	215	3	5.0	Dane Fletcher	66	6.5	10.5	1	0
Everette Gilbert	23	161	10	151	1	6.6	Jody Owens	61	0.5	3.5	3	1
Cody Kempt	30	124	40	84	1	2.8	Jordan Craney	57	0	1.5	2	1
Ricky Evans	17	78	7	71	0	4.2	Dan Ogden	44	5.5	2.5	2	0
Mark Iddins	39	113	95	18	0	0.5	Matt Harris	44	0.5	2.5	0	0
PASSING												
Mark Iddins	195	113	57.9	121.7	5	6	Jeff Price	40	0	1.5	0	0
Cody Kempt	173	100	57.8	110.8	9	4	John Laidet	40	3.5	2	4	0
RECEIVING												
Everette Gilbert	46	556	12.1	6	60		Chase Gazzo	32	1	3	2	1
Julius Lloyd	36	442	12.3	1	40		Anthony Cosme-Peko	28	1	2	1	0
Elvis Akpla	27	380	14.1	3	45		Jason D'Alba	24	2.5	3.5	2	0
Joe Schreiber	22	219	10.0	1	23		Dustin O'Connell	23	2.5	3	1	0
Derek Green	14	191	13.6	0	45		Darius Jones	22	0	4	4	0
Kyle Begger	17	123	7.2	3	32		Tanner Ripley	20	0	1	0	0
DeSean Thomas	8	107	13.4	0	30		Cory Nicol	14	0	0.5	0	1
Aaron Mason	14	89	6.4	0	20		Ryan Cerise	13	1	0.5	0	0
Blayde Becksted	9	87	9.7	0	24		Zach Coleman	12	0	0	1	0
PUNTING												
Eric Fisher	46	1958	42.8	7	32.8	(1)	Brad Daly	2	45	22.5	0	0
Mackey Nolan	13	492	37.8	2	-	0	DeSean Thomas	13	28	2.2	0	0
KICKING												
Jason Cunningham	25	1-29	30-39	40-49	50+	TOTAL LONG	KICK RETURNS	23	478	20.8	0	0
	XP	5-5	5-6	4-7	0-0	14-18	Everett Gilbert	5	120	24.0	0	0
							Elvis Akpla					

OFFENSE - LAST 6 YEARS - DEFENSE

RET	STS	PTS	TOTAL OFF	OFF RUSH	OFF YPC	OFF PASS	PASS %	OFF YPP	SKS	TOTAL TURN		RET	STS	PTS	TOTAL DEF	DEF RUSH	DEF YPC	DEF PASS	PASS %	DEF YPP	SKS	BY
5*	23.4	362	147	3.9	214	57.5	15.5	18	-6	2009	6	22.2	344	82	2.4	261	57.2	15.6	30			
6	26.6	336	175	4.2	161	49.8	12.7	17	-10	2008	5	27.7	314	89	2.6	225	60.5	11.4	36			
7*	24.2	353	116	3.4	237	53.0	14.6	23	+4	2007	7	21.7	367	144	3.7	223	54.3	16.9	29			
5	20.1	321	95	3.2	226	54.6	16.0	31	-2	2006	7	22.0	307	120	3.2	187	52.3	13.9	32			
10	25.1	375	131	3.9	244	57.0	14.8	23	-7	2005	6	22.8	332	167	3.9	166	50.7	14.6	26			
5	26.9	433	115	3.5	318	54.1	16.0	22	0	2004	6	25.9	383	248	3.3	248	53.4	15.0	33			

OFFENSE

2009 STATS BY GAME

DEFENSE

MSU 2009	ATT	OPPONENT	FD	Rush-YDS	AVG	CO-ATT	YDS	VS	FD	Rush-YDS	AVG	CO-ATT	YDS	SKS BY	TURN
74,518		at Michigan St	12	28-62	2.2	13-26	98	3	29	40-175	4.4	19-35	318	0	0
13,767		Dixie St	28	43-160	3.7	24-40	305	3	28	29-41	1.4	28-55	417	2	-1
4,316		at N Colorado	20	42-187	4.5	18-28	173	3	9	32-32	1.0	14-28	73	4	0
6,112		at Weber St	18	46-202	4.4	11-17	150	2	25	37-132	3.6	28-45	337	2	+2
14,017		N Arizona	13	26-42	1.6	25-39	235	1	17	29-(17)	-0.6	31-41	394	3	-4
13,817		South Dakota	18	36-143	4.0	23-35	249	0	21	45-172	3.8	20-35	263	1	+1
6,632		at E Washington	27	41-192	4.7	25-47	400	3	20	22-67	3.0	26-41	327	2	-3
12,271		Idaho St	29	42-236	5.6	22-42	252	1	14	27-17	0.6	16-39	127	3	-1
5,690		at Portland St	21	47-185	3.9	14-31	116	1	14	38-158	4.2	10-24	82	5	+1
10,697		Sacramento St	18	35-127	3.6	20-29	222	1	21	30-35	1.2	26-45	277	6	+1
15,127		Montana	14	27-83	3.1	19-38	159	0	19	48-95	2.0	24-35	261	3	-2
TOTALS			218	413-1619	3.9	214-372	2359	18	217	377-907	2.4	242-423	2876	30	-6
AVERAGES			19.8	38-147	3.9	20-34	214	1.6	19.7	34-82	2.4	22-39	261	2.8	-0.5

2004 RESULTS

2005 RESULTS

2006 RESULTS

2007 RESULTS

2008 RESULTS

2009 RESULTS

OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Adams St	19-0	at Oklahoma St	10-15	at Colorado	19-10	at Texas A&M	7-38	Adams St	59-3	at Michigan State	3-44
Cal Poly	14-27	Stephen F Austin	42-6	Chadron St	24-35	Dixie St	61-7	at Kansas St	10-69	Dixie State	23-20
at Colorado St	14-39	at Cal Poly	10-38	UC Davis	0-45	at Weber St	21-5	at Minnesota	23-35	at Northern Colorado	25-7
at Idaho St	17-13	North Dakota St	20-17	Eastern Wash	10-19	Idaho St	40-20	South Dakota	37-18	at Weber State	26-21
Weber St	20-17	Idaho St	30-28	at Northern Arizona	39-32	Southern Utah	7-3	at Idaho St	33-21	Northern Arizona	10-23
Portland St (OT)	31-24	at Weber St	27-24	at Sacramento St	21-18	at Eastern Washington	13-35	Weber St	12-35	South Dakota (OT)	31-24
South Dakota St	27-24	at Portland St	41-44	at Idaho State	42-35	Sacramento St	20-9	Eastern Washington	17-34	at Eastern Washington	24-35
at Northern Arizona	60-14	Northern Arizona	29-22	Weber State	24-18	at Northern Colorado	13-16	at Sacramento St	31-20	Idaho State	41-10
at Sacramento St	28-38	Sacramento St	37-16	Northern Colorado	13-10	Northern Arizona	14-29	Northern Colorado	20-7	at Portland State	28-10
E Washington (OT)	44-51	at Eastern Washington	14-35	at Montana	7-13	at Portland St	50-36	at Northern Arizona	25-23	Sacramento State	27-17
Montana	22-38	Montana	16-6	Furman	31-13	Montana	20-41	Portland St	49-32	Montana	19-33
				at Appalachian St	17-38			at Montana	3-35		